

WI-290

c. 1880-90

John F. Jester House

Nanticoke vicinity

Private

Standing on the east and west sides of Jesterville Road, east of the village of Nanticoke, is a pair of two-and-a-half story frame farmhouses built by the Jester family during the late years of the nineteenth century. John F. Jester erected the house on the east side of the road in close imitation of the house across the road. Both houses were built with a conservative center hall/single-pile plan, while the exterior was embellished with a variety of late nineteenth century sawn decoration. Unusual divided porch posts feature sawn corner brackets and a sawtooth fascia board. The interior has been remodeled over the years, but the staircase is distinctive with its hand-crafted newel post. The square proportioned post is trimmed with a scalloped edge decoration and the top is finished with a pyramidal stepped cap. Typical factory turned balusters support the railing.

Merchant John F. Jester erected this house around 1880-1890 in the community named for his family. Jesterville was a prosperous rural village that developed between 1880 and 1910 on the main road that connected Nanticoke and river wharfs to Salisbury. John F. Jester made several purchases of property along the road during the late 1880s and added to property holdings that were considerable by the time the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas was published in 1877. The atlas patron list credits him with owning over 200 acres. The property was held as recently as 1979 by descendants of John F. Jester.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: John F. Jester House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-290

## MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Domiance  
1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF**  
**HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-290

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic John F. Jester House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 3039 Jesterville Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Nanticoke ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Earl M. Beardsley, Jr.

street & number 3039 Jesterville Road telephone no.:

city, town Nanticoke state and zip code Maryland 21840

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, P. 10  
liber 999

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 397

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-290

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John F. Jester house stands at 3039 Jesterville Road in the vicinity of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, five-bay, single-pile frame house faces west with the main gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date around 1880-1890, the two-story, center hall frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is uniformly clad with vinyl siding. The cross-gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the front block is a two-story dining room and kitchen wing that is extended on the south and east sides.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows on the first floor. The front door is a replacement, and the windows are flanked by vinyl shutters. A hip roofed front porch stretches across the five-bay facade, and the roof is supported by unusual pierced posts. Decorative brackets flank each post and the eave is trimmed with a sawn fascia board. The second floor is lighted by five evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows. The cross gable is covered with fishscale shingles and pierced by a louvered vent. ~~4023~~

The north and south gable ends are marked by single-pane and two-over-two sash windows. The interior end chimneys stacks have been removed below the roofline.

The east side of the main block is largely covered by the two-story, two-room plan dining room/kitchen wing, which extends on its south side by a two-story, one-bay section which is an extension to the kitchen. An enclosed shed porch stretches between the main block and the two-story one-bay extension. Rising through the roof is a center brick chimney stack.

The interior of the house has survived with a number of original late nineteenth century features. The staircase is original and features a handmade newel post of square proportions with a scalloped decorative edge and a stepped pyramidal cap. The newel post and a series of turned balusters support a molded handrail. A shallow relief four-panel door opens into the stair closet. The stair hall has been incorporated into the south parlor in order to increase the size of the current living room. A shallow relief four-panel door opens into the room on the north side of the hall. The dining room/kitchen wing rooms have been generally reworked. The second floor was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-290

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

## Specific dates

## Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Standing on the east and west sides of Jesterville Road, east of the village of Nanticoke, is a pair of two-and-a-half story frame farmhouses built by the Jester family during the late years of the nineteenth century. John F. Jester erected the house on the east side of the road in close imitation of the house across the road. Both houses were built with a conservative center hall/single-pile plan, while the exterior was embellished with a variety of late nineteenth century sawn decoration. Unusual divided porch posts feature sawn corner brackets and a sawtooth fascia board. The interior has been remodeled over the years, but the staircase is distinctive with its hand-crafted newel post. The square proportioned post is trimmed with a scalloped edge decoration and the top is finished with a pyramidal stepped cap. Typical factory turned balusters support the railing.

The John F. Jester house qualifies for listing in *Category B*, which identifies a building that should be preserved since it exhibits some good architectural details representing a particular period of architectural development or style.

Merchant John F. Jester erected this house around 1880-1890 in the community named for his family. Jesterville was a prosperous rural village that developed between 1880 and 1910 on the main road that connected Nanticoke and river wharfs to Salisbury. John F. Jester made several purchases of property along the road during the late 1880s and added to property holdings that were considerable by the time the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas was published in 1877. The atlas patron list credits him with owning over 200 acres.(1) The property was held as recently as 1979 by descendants of John F. Jester. (2)



## 8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

John F. Jester House, WI-290

Nanticoke vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

### Footnotes

1 Graham, John L. ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Salisbury, Maryland: Peninsula Press, 1976, p. 50.

2 Wicomico County Land Record, AJS 920/510, 5/22/1979, Wicomico County Courthouse.

WI-290  
John F. Jester House  
3039 Jesterville Road  
Nanticoke vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 10

999/397  
Bradley W. Johnson  
Richard E. Cullen  
Joel A. Boren, Trustees

to

8/17/1983  
Earl M. Beardsley, Jr.  
Karla J. Beardsley

AJS 979/493  
Verna M. Johnson, widow

to

10/11/1982  
Bradley W. Johnson  
County Road 338 27.356 acres  
Plat of Resurvey of Property of Wallace H. Johnson  
and Verna M. Johnson



WI-290  
John F. Jester House  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

AJS 920/510

Victor H. Laws, Jr.  
Billy Jester, Personal Representatives of Amy W.  
Jester, deceased

to

5/22/1979

Wallace H. Johnson  
Verna M. Johnson

Parcel No. 1, 7.33 acres designated on a plat  
"Marjorie Jester, 5/17/1941, JWTS 674/41

Parcels No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

JWTS 318/473

Anna R. Hickman

to

8/11/1950

Amy W. Jester

Reserving a life estate unto Anna R. Hickman

JCK 138/241

The John F. Jester Company

to

2/17/1923

Anna R. Jester

Parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

WI-290  
John F. Jester House  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

FMS 8/35

Thomas J. Walter

to

10/8/1891

John F. Jester

Parcels 2 and 3

FMS 3/473

Ware C. Walter

to

8/14/1888

John F. Jester

Parcel 4

FMS 7/306

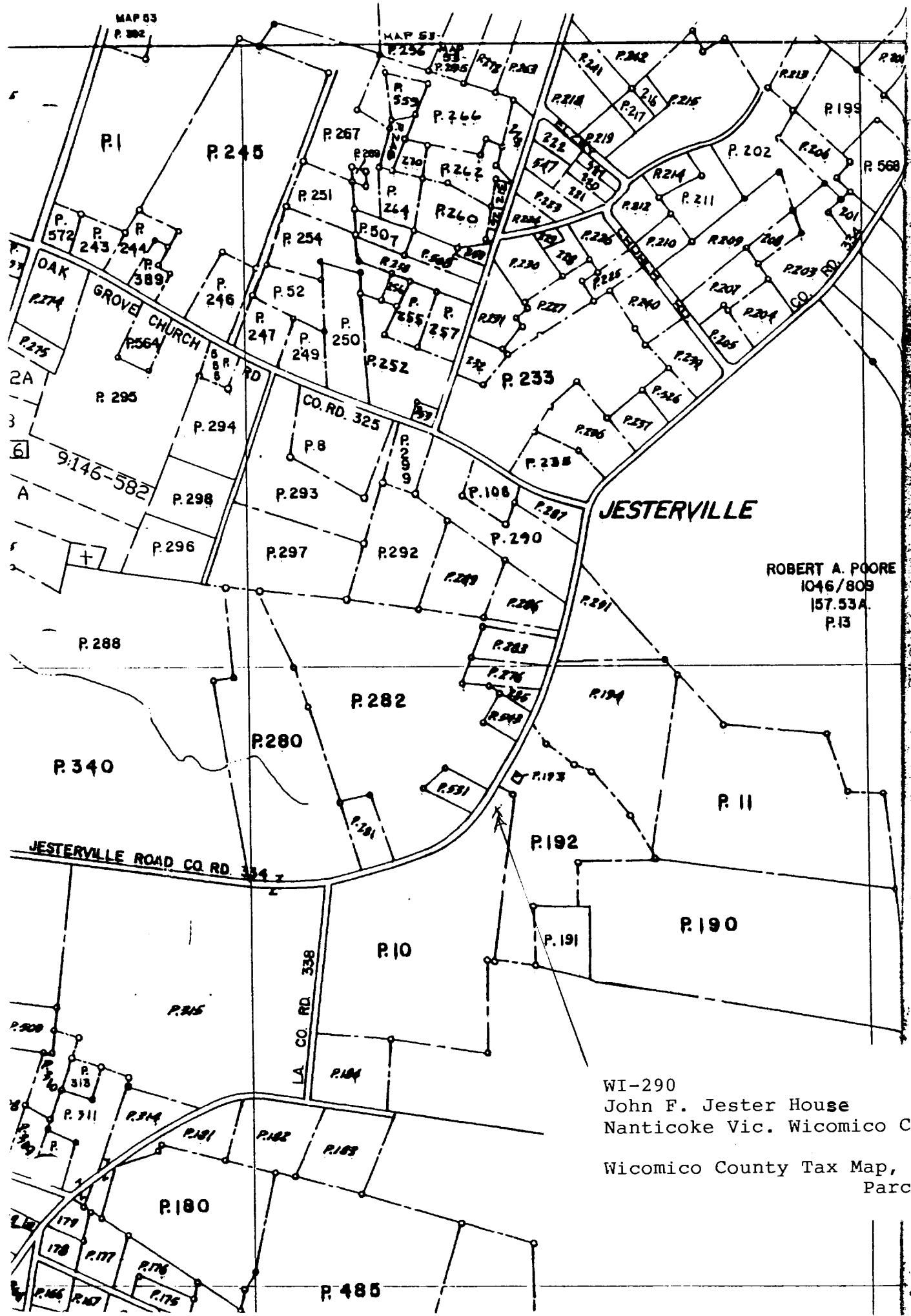
Ware C. Walter

to

6/11/1891

John F. Jester

Parcel 5

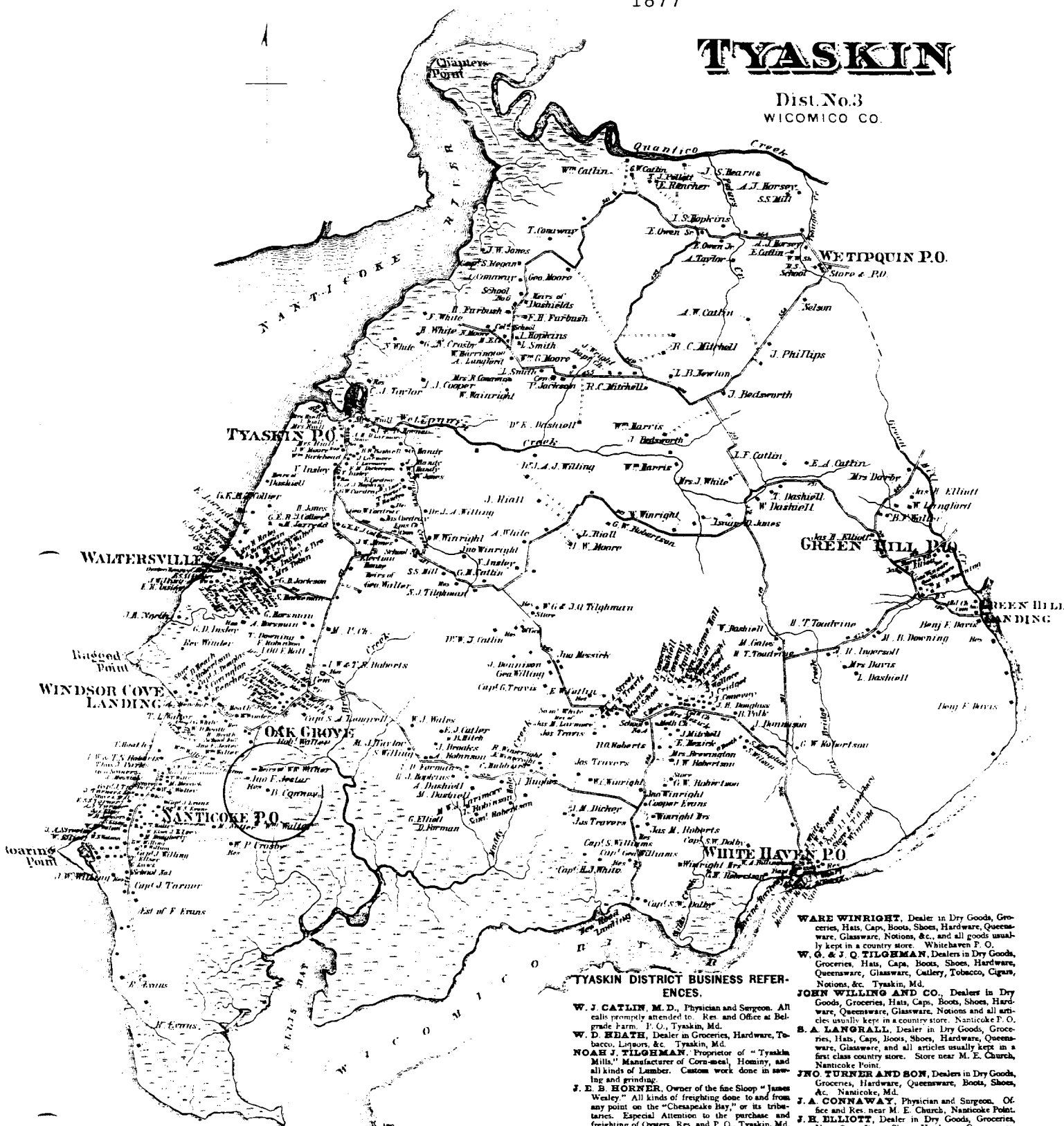


ROBERT A. POORE  
1046/809  
157.53A  
P.13

WI-290  
John F. Jester House  
Nanticoke Vic. Wicomico Co., MD

Wicomico County Tax Map, 63  
Parcel 10

Dist. No.3  
WICOMICO CO.



**WARE WINRIGHT**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions, &c., and all goods usually kept in a country store. Whitehaven P. O.

**W. G. & J. Q. TILGHMAN**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Cattery, Tobacco, Cigars, *Nassau St., Trunking Md.*

Notions, &c. Tyaskin, Md.  
**JOHN WILLING AND CO.,** Dealers in Dry  
Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hard-  
ware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions and all arti-  
cles of the household. Nanticoke P. O.

**B. A. LANGRALL**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, and all articles usually kept in a

**JNO. TURNER AND SON**, Dealers in Dry Goods,  
Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Boots, Shoes,

**J. A. CONNAWAY**, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Res. near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.  
**J. H. ELLIOTT**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries,

Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware,  
Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Extracts, Patent  
Medicines, Notions, and all goods usually kept in  
a first class country store. Store at Green Hill.

is first class country more. Store at Green Hill.

TYASKIN DISTRICT BUSINESS REFER-  
ENCES.

**W. J. CATLIN, M. D.,** Physician and Surgeon. All calls promptly attended to. Res. and Office at Belgrade Farm, P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

**W. D. HEATH**, Dealer in Groceries, Hardware, Tobacco, Liquors, &c. Tyaskin, Md.

**NOAH J. TILGHMAN**, Proprietor of "Tyaskin Mills," Manufacturer of Corn-meal, Hominy, and all kinds of Lumber. Custom work done in saw

**J. E. B. HORNER**, Owner of the fine Sloop "James Wesley." All kinds of freighting done to and from any point on the "Chesapeake Bay" or its tributaries.

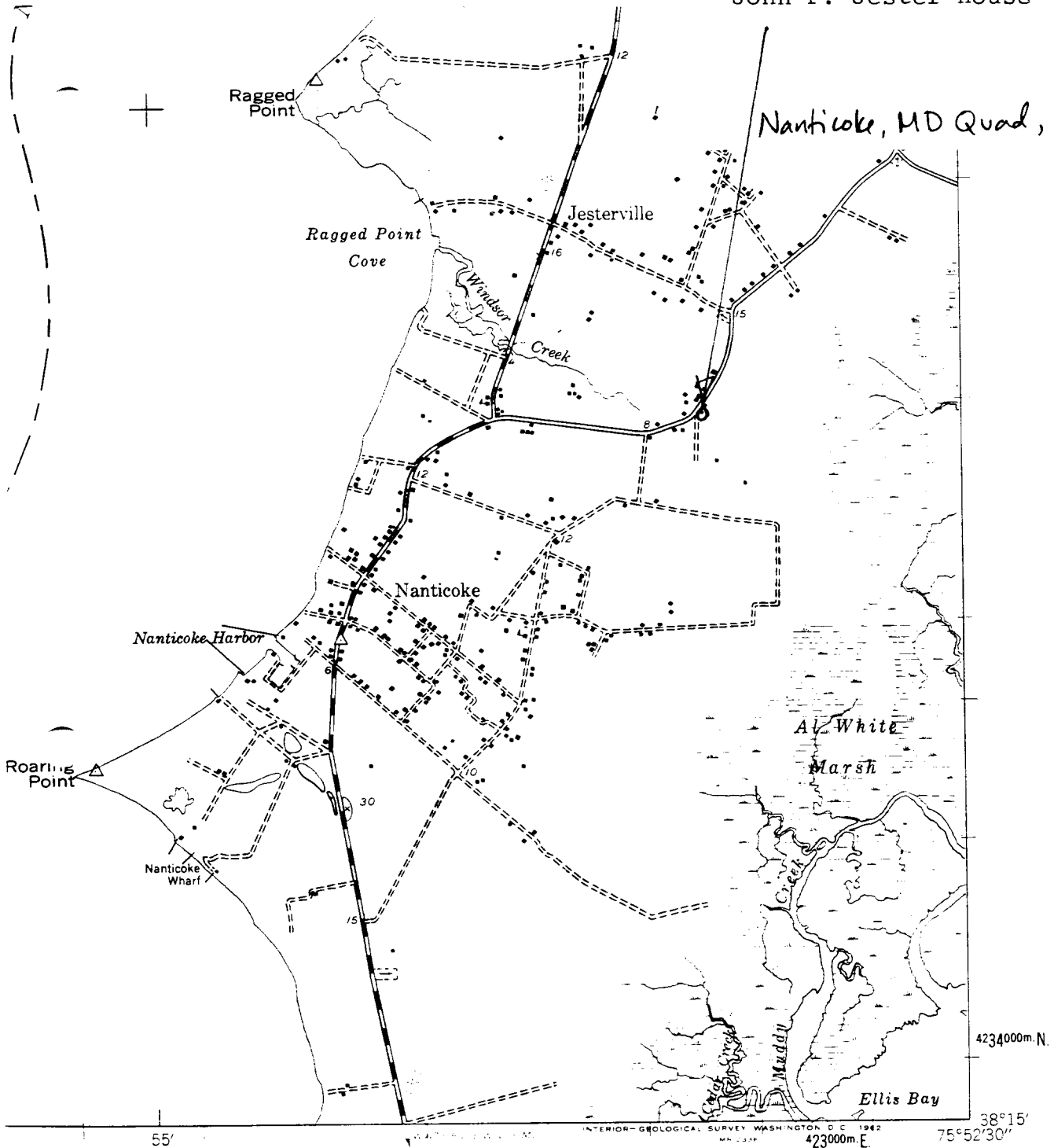
any point on the "Chesapeake Bay," or its tributaries. Especial Attention to the purchase and freighting of Oysters. Res. and P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

**J. W. WINGATE.** Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries

**J. W. WINGATE.** Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Confectionery, Wines, Whiskies, Brandies and Rum, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store, at Whitehaven.

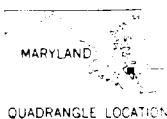
In a first class country store, @ Whitehaven.

Nanticoke, MD Quad, 1942



1 MILE  
7000 FEET  
METER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Unimproved dirt . . . . .  
State Route



NANTICOKE, MD.  
SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3815—W7552.5/7.5

1942



